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Prosecutors in Trump election case get judge's OK to lay out fresh evidence in court filing

By E. TUCKER, A. RICHER and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal election interference case against Donald Trump inched forward Thursday, with a judge permitting prosecutors to file court documents later this month that could detail unflattering allegations about the former president as the Republican nominee enters the final weeks of his White House run. The order came hours after a court hearing, the first in the case in nearly a year, in which U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan sparred with a Trump lawyer who accused the government of trying to rush ahead with an "illegitimate" indictment in the run-up to the 2024 presidential election.



Former President Donald Trump attorneys Emil Bove, left, and Todd Blanche, right, leave the U.S. Federal Courthouse, after a hearing, Thursday, Sep. 5, 2024, in Washington.

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Associated Press

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Prosecutors in Trump election case get judge's OK to lay out fresh evidence in court filing

Continued from Front

Chutkan made clear she would not let the upcoming election affect how she proceeds, turning aside defense efforts to delay the process while also acknowledging that the case is nowhere close to a trial date.

"There's no rush to judgment here," Chutkan said.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers are at odds over the next steps in the case after the Supreme Court narrowed the scope of the prosecution by ruling that former presidents are entitled to broad immunity from criminal charges. The dueling proposals and testy courtroom exchanges Thursday reflected the extent to which the justices' July opinion had upended the path of the case that charges Trump with plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021.

By day's end, she permitted prosecutors to file by Sept. 26 a legal brief that could include fresh details about Trump's failed efforts to cling to power four years ago. The brief is meant to defend a revised, and stripped-down, Trump indictment that special counsel Jack Smith's team filed last week to comply with the Supreme Court's immunity opinion. The filing is expected to include detailed allegations from the investigation, said Thomas Windom, a member of Smith's team.

Trump lawyer John Lauro objected to the filing of the brief before the defense team has had a chance to seek the indictment's dismissal — and during the



This exhibit from video released by the House Select Committee, shows President Donald Trump recording a video statement on the afternoon of Jan. 6, 2021, from the Rose Garden, displayed at a hearing by the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. (Associated Press)

"sensitive time" before the election.

"This process is inherently inherently unfair, particularly during this sensitive time that we're in," Lauro said.

That comment drew a rebuke from Chutkan, who said that the timing of the election was "not relevant" to how the case should proceed.

"This court is not concerned with the electoral schedule," the judge said. At another point, she suggested that the defense was trying to delay the case because of the forthcoming election, cautioning, "That's not going to be a factor I consider at all."

The new indictment filed by Smith's team last week removed allegations related to Trump's attempts to use the Justice Department's law enforcement powers to undo the election results, conduct for which the Supreme Court said he enjoyed immunity. But the Trump team believes the

new indictment did not go far enough to comply with the 6-3 ruling, in part because it left intact allegations that Trump badgered his vice president, Mike Pence, to refuse to certify the counting of the electoral votes, Lauro said.

"We may be dealing with an illegitimate indictment from the get-go," Lauro said.

He told Chutkan that the Supreme Court's opinion required the outright dismissal of the case, a position the judge made clear she did not accept. She bristled again when he suggested that prosecutors were guilty of a "rush to judgment."

"This case has been pending for over a year," Chutkan said, referencing the fact that the matter has been frozen since last December while Trump pursued his immunity appeal. "We're hardly sprinting to the finish here."

She added: "We all know — we all know — that

whatever my ruling on immunity is, it's going to be appealed. And the taking of that appeal will again stay this case. So, no one here is under any illusion that we're sprinting towards any particular trial date." The Supreme Court held that former presidents are immune from prosecution for the exercise of their core constitutional functions and are presumptively immune for all other official duties. It now falls to Chutkan to determine which of the acts in the four-count indictment are official or not and which can remain part of the case in light of the opinion.

Neither side envisions a trial happening before Election Day, especially given the amount of work ahead. Pushing back on the defense's claims that the special counsel wants to move too quickly, Windom noted that Trump's lawyers filed a lengthy brief seeking to overturn his New York hush

money conviction and dismiss the case less than two weeks after the Supreme Court's ruling in July.

"The defense can move comprehensively, quickly and well. So can we," Thomas Windom said.

Lauro told Chutkan that the case concerned momentous issues. "We are talking about the presidency of the United States," he said. Chutkan shot back: "I'm not talking about the presidency of the United States. I'm talking about a four count indictment."

The hearing ended without the judge issuing an order about future dates in the case.

Trump was not in the courtroom and gave an economic speech in New York, though Smith was present.

A not guilty plea was entered on his behalf for the revised indictment.

Defense lawyers said they intend to file multiple motions to dismiss the case, including one that piggybacks off a Florida judge's ruling that said Smith's appointment was unconstitutional.

The case is one of two federal prosecutions against Trump. The other, charging him with illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, was dismissed in July by U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, who said Smith's appointment as special counsel was unlawful.

Smith's team has appealed that ruling. Trump's lawyers say they intend to ask Chutkan to dismiss the election case on the same grounds, though Chutkan noted in court Thursday that she did not find Cannon's opinion "particularly persuasive." □

Navy secretary breaks law with political statements about presidential race, watchdog says

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro broke the law by publicly endorsing the reelection of President Joe Biden and criticizing former President Donald Trump in several statements he made while on official duty overseas, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel said Thursday. In a report to the White House, the watchdog agency said Del Toro's comments about the presidential election came in a BBC interview and when he was responding to questions after a speech in London. While he later reported the remarks, his unwillingness to take responsibility for them is troubling, the special counsel said.

The agency said Del Toro's comments, which were made before Biden dropped out of the presidential race, violate the Hatch Act, which prohibits U.S. officials from engaging in political activity while they are on duty and from "using their official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of an election."

"The United States and



Nominee for Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro speaks during a Senate Armed Services confirmation hearing July 13, 2021, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

the world need the mature leadership of President Biden," Del Toro said in response to a question after giving a speech at the Royal United Services Institute in late January. He added, "We cannot afford to have a president who aligns himself with autocratic dictators and rulers whose interpretation of democratic principles is suspicious (at) best."

Later, during an interview on "BBC News Sunday," Del Toro was asked about his comments on Trump's democratic principles. Del Toro responded that in the past, Republican and Democratic presidents abided by core American values and protected democracy.

"When you have someone who doesn't align to those core principles, it makes

you wonder, you know, should you be supporting that individual?" he said. Del Toro was asked, "You said he had a suspicious attitude to democracy?" And the Navy secretary responded, "Absolutely so." Several days later, Del Toro self-reported the blunder to the special counsel, saying his intention was to focus on the importance of strong international alliances. But,

he added, "In retrospect, I believe my response should have been delivered more broadly without reference to specific candidates."

In a separate written response to the watchdog's findings, the secretary's lawyer, Michael Bromwich, said Del Toro's remarks were "spontaneous and unpremeditated" and did not constitute a violation of the Hatch Act. Bromwich said Del Toro was responding to questions and did not directly speak Trump's name.

Special counsel Hampton Dellinger said in his report that Del Toro "crossed a legal line." And he said the secretary's "unwillingness to acknowledge a mistake is striking" and troubling.

Dellinger said he appreciates that Del Toro reported the comments, "but this fact alone should not absolve him."

Del Toro has also issued his own directive for his Navy force, Dellinger said, noting that "it is more important than ever for us to remember that the DON (Department of the Navy) is an apolitical body. Public trust and confidence depend on this." □

Associated Press

New Mexico attorney general sues company behind Snapchat alleging child sexual extortion on the site

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer (AP)

— New Mexico's attorney general has filed a lawsuit against the company behind Snapchat, alleging that site's design and policies foster the sharing of child sexual abuse material and facilitate child sexual exploitation.

Attorney General Raúl Torrez filed the lawsuit against Snap Inc. Thursday in state court in Santa Fe. In addition to sexual abuse, the lawsuit claims the company also openly promotes child trafficking, drugs and guns.

Last December, Torrez filed a similar lawsuit against Meta, the parent company

of Instagram and Facebook, saying it allows predators to trade child pornography and solicit minors for sex on its platforms. That suit is pending.

Snap's "harmful design features create an environment where predators can easily target children through sextortion schemes and other forms of sexual abuse," Torrez said in a statement. Sexual extortion, or sextortion, involves persuading a person to send explicit photos online and then threatening to make the images public unless the victim pays money or engages in sexual favors.

"Snap has misled users into

believing that photos and videos sent on their platform will disappear, but predators can permanently capture this content and they have created a virtual yearbook of child sexual images that are traded, sold, and stored indefinitely," Torrez said.

In a statement, Snap said it shares Torrez's and the public's concerns about the online safety of young people.

"We understand that online threats continue to evolve and we will continue to work diligently to address these critical issues," the company based in Santa Monica, California, said. We have invested hun-

dreds of millions of dollars in our trust and safety teams over the past several years, and designed our service to promote online safety by

moderating content and enabling direct messaging with close friends and family." □



New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez speaks during a rally to protect kids online on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024.

Associated Press

Former cadets accuse the Coast Guard Academy of failing to stop sexual violence

By **DAVE COLLINS**
Associated Press

Thirteen former cadets at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy accused overseers of the Connecticut school on Thursday of failing to prevent sexual violence on campus and covering it up, in federal complaints seeking \$10 million apiece in damages.

The former cadets, who all say they were sexually assaulted at the academy from the 1980s to more recent years, filed Federal Tort Claims Act administrative complaints against the Coast Guard, its parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security, and its former parent agency, the Department of Transportation.

They allege the Coast Guard's failure to put adequate policies and practices in place allowed sexual violence to go unchecked at the academy in New London, Connecticut, and that officials covered up the prevalence of sexual assault and harassment at the school.

Coast Guard officials had no immediate comment Thursday. Spokespeople for the service said they were working on a response to the complaints.



The United States Coast Guard Academy is seen, Sept. 14, 2020, in New London, Conn.

Associated Press

The complaints follow revelations the Coast Guard kept secret a probe, called Operation Fouled Anchor, into sexual assault and harassment on campus. The investigation found that dozens of cases involving cadets from 1990 to 2006 had been mishandled by the school, including the prevention of some perpetrators from being prosecuted.

The revelations, first reported by CNN, sparked calls

for major reforms and long-awaited accountability for offenders and those who protected them. There are multiple government and congressional investigations underway looking into the mishandling of serious misbehavior at the school and beyond.

"What happened to these individuals at the academy has really had a lifelong impact," said Christine Dunn, a lawyer who is representing the former cadets.

"Some of them are still suffering from active PTSD. As a result, their careers have been ruined. As a result, marriages have been ruined."

Coast Guard officials have previously said they're taking action to change and improve the culture at the academy and in the service in response to the allegations raised in the Operation Fouled Anchor investigation.

Among the former cadets

who filed a complaint Thursday is a woman named in the papers as Jane Doe 1, who said she was raped twice at the academy and later gang-raped multiple times while serving on a ship after graduating from the school.

After the first rape on campus, she said she didn't think she could report it because it would be her word against that of the well-liked senior cadet she said attacked her. She also said she had heard of other female cadets who were not believed when they raised sexual misconduct allegations.

About a year later, she said she did inform a campus official that she was attacked, although she did not provide details or the name of the alleged attacker. The official did not formally report it, she said. Years later, she reported it herself to Coast Guard officials. Disciplinary proceedings were held against the alleged attacker but were dismissed, she said.

Officials told her too much time had passed for a successful prosecution, she said.

She said she didn't feel like she could report the subsequent rapes. □

FBI searches the homes of at least three top deputies to New York City's mayor

By **JAKE OFFENHARTZ**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — FBI agents this week searched



Mayor Eric Adams, right, is flanked by deputy mayor Sheena Wright, left, during a press conference at City Hall in New York, Dec. 12, 2023.

Associated Press

the homes of at least three top deputies to New York City Mayor Eric Adams, according to a person familiar with the matter.

FBI agents seized electronic devices Wednesday from the homes of Phillip Banks, the deputy mayor for public safety, and Sheena Wright, the first deputy mayor, said the person, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation.

Agents also searched the home of Timothy Pearson, a former high-ranking official in the New York Police Department who now ad-

vises the mayor on public safety, the person said.

Spokespersons for the FBI and for Adams declined to comment.

Benjamin Brafman, an attorney for Phillip Banks, confirmed that a search was conducted on his client's home early Wednesday, but declined to comment further.

The searches marked the latest sign of legal trouble in Adams' administration. He is a first-term Democrat and former New York City police captain.

In November, federal agents seized the mayor's phones and iPad as he

was leaving an event in Manhattan and raided the home of one of his top fundraisers. While Adams has denied any wrongdoing, he confirmed last month that he had received a subpoena from federal prosecutors.

Pearson is currently facing multiple lawsuits for allegedly sexually harassing female employees and is facing a separate investigation for his role in a brawl at a shelter for homeless migrants.

A lawyer representing Pearson in the harassment suit did not immediately respond to a phone call. □

Munich police fatally shoot a man they believe was planning to attack the Israeli Consulate

By **MATTHIAS SCHRADER**
and **GEIR MOULSON**

Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — Police in Munich exchanged fire with a gunman near the Israeli Consulate in Munich on Thursday, fatally wounding him. Authorities said they believe he was planning to attack the consulate on the anniversary of the attack on the 1972 Munich Olympics.

No one else was hurt in the shootout shortly after 9 a.m. in an area near the consulate and a museum on the city's Nazi-era history. Officers had been alerted to a person carrying a gun in the Karolinenplatz area, near downtown Munich, and returned fire when he shot at them. The suspect, who was carrying an old long gun with a bayonet attached to it, died at the scene.

Five officers were at the scene at the time the gunfire erupted. Police quickly deployed about 500 officers to the area.

Police said the gunman was an 18-year-old from Austria, but investigators were still looking into his motive. They didn't give further



Police officers patrol after police fired shots at a suspicious person near the Israeli Consulate and a museum on the city's Nazi-era history in Munich, Germany, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

details on the suspect, who left a car near the scene, except to say that he lived in Austria.

"We have to assume that an attack on the Israeli Consulate possibly was planned early today," Bavaria's top security official, state Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann, told reporters at the scene. "It's obvious that, if someone

parks here within sight of the Israeli Consulate ... then starts shooting, it most probably isn't a coincidence." Prosecutors and police said in a statement later Thursday they currently believe the plan was for "a terrorist attack, also with respect to the consulate of the state of Israel," and that they are still investigating the man's motive.

Thursday was the 52nd anniversary of the attack by Palestinian militants on the Israeli delegation at the 1972 Munich Olympics, which ended with the death of 11 Israeli team members, a West German police officer and five of the assailants.

"There may be a connection that must be cleared up," Bavarian governor

Markus Söder said.

Munich police said there was no evidence of any more suspects connected to the shooting.

In neighboring Austria's Salzburg province, police said the suspected assailant, an Austrian with Bosnian roots, had come to authorities' attention in February 2023. They said that, following a "dangerous threat" against fellow students coupled with bodily harm, he had also been accused of involvement in a terror organization.

There was a suspicion that he had become religiously radicalized, was active online in that context and was interested in explosives and weapons, a police statement said, but prosecutors closed an investigation in April 2023.

However, authorities did issue a ban on him owning weapons until at least the beginning of 2028. Police said he had not come to their attention since.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said the consulate was closed Thursday due to a memorial ceremony for the 1972 attack and none of its staff was hurt. □

The Dutch government is 'future-proofing' its military in an increasingly volatile world

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Netherlands' defense ministry announced a major plan to "future-proof" the country's military on Thursday, including buying more F-35 fighter jets and the return of a Dutch tank battalion as it gears up to face a world of expanding threats.

The Netherlands and other members of the NATO military alliance have been looking with new urgency at how to boost their militaries since Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered a full-scale war on Europe's eastern flank.

Gijs Tuinman, the state secretary for defense, called

the white paper outlining the investments "the most ambitious military agenda in modern Dutch history." The major investments an extra 2.4 billion euros (\$2.66 billion) per year to bring annual defense budget up to 24 billion euros (\$266 billion) come weeks before former Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte takes over as NATO chief. The funding boost should ensure the Dutch government remains above the military alliance's goal of member states spending at least 2% of GDP on defense. Dutch military spending this year already was expected to exceed the 2% target.

"The minister and I are convinced that with this De-

fense White Paper we are taking the right steps toward a future-proofed military," Tuinman said, as he stood alongside Defense Minister Ruben Brekelmans. NATO spokesperson Farah Dakhllallah welcomed the announcement.

"In a more uncertain security environment, this is an important step for the Netherlands and NATO's deterrence and defence. 23 Allies currently meet or exceed the 2% defence spending guideline and defence spending is on an upward trajectory across the Alliance," Dakhllallah said.

The plan outlined risks to Dutch and NATO security from eastern Europe to the

Middle and Far East that are being addressed to different degrees by allies throughout the alliance.

"Where Russia seeks con-

frontation, China is undermining the international legal order in a more indirect but also more structural way," it warned. □



Incoming Defense Minister Ruben Brekelmans arrives to be sworn in at royal palace Huis ten Bosch in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

Associated Press

U.S. secures the release of 135 Nicaraguan political prisoners

By SONIA PÉREZ D.
Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) —

The U.S. government announced Thursday that it secured the release of 135 Nicaraguan political prisoners, who have arrived in Guatemala where they will apply for entry to the United States or other countries. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said in a statement that they were released on humanitarian grounds.

"No one should be put in jail for peacefully exercising their fundamental rights of free expression, association, and practicing their religion," Sullivan said.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Eric Jacobstein, speaking with reporters in Guatemala, said that the Nicaraguan government received nothing in exchange for the prisoners' release and the negotiation signaled no change in U.S. policy toward the government of President Daniel Ortega.

"Though the pressure itself has been consistent, the planning and execution of this release was rapid, and we've worked quickly



Lucia Garcia gestures from a bus after being released from a Nicaraguan jail and landing at the airport in Guatemala City, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024.

to facilitate the travel of these individuals and really ensure their safety at every step of the journey," Jacobstein said, adding that Nicaragua continues to "unjustly" detain people. Asked if there were some prisoners Nicaragua was willing to release, but who refused to leave, he declined to comment. Jacobstein, who greeted

the Nicaraguans in Guatemala, said "these are individuals, some of whom have been victims of torture ... who've had an extremely difficult time, we did find them generally in very good health and spirits." One thing that struck the U.S. diplomat about some of his conversations with the prisoners was the "true pettiness and cruelty"

of Ortega's government for imprisoning people for no justifiable reason.

Among the Nicaraguans released were 13 members of a Texas-based religious charity, Catholic laypeople, students and others. Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo agreed to host the Nicaraguans while they apply for entry to the U.S.

Associated Press

The Nicaraguans rolled out of a Guatemalan air base in the capital on buses Thursday morning, with some waving from the windows.

Nicaragua's government did not immediately confirm the announcement on the prisoners' release.

Nicaraguan human rights advocate Haydeé Castillo said the release of the prisoners was a "triumph for the Nicaraguan people's resistance." She noted that the prisoners weren't really freed because their release comes with forced displacement from their country. "Nobody should be held prisoner for thinking differently," Castillo said.

She said advocates were reviewing lists to see how many such prisoners remain in custody.

Ivannia Alvarez, an exiled Nicaraguan and member of the Recognition Mechanism for Political Prisoners, said that her most recent count had been 151 jailed, suggesting that some of them are still detained.

The Texas-based religious organization Mountain Gateway confirmed the release of 13 of its people after nine months in jail. □

China halts foreign adoptions of its children. U.S. seeks further information on pending cases

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese government is ending its intercountry adoption program, and the U.S. is seeking clarification on how the decision will affect the hundreds of U.S. families with

pending applications, the U.S. State Department said Thursday.

In a phone call with the U.S. diplomats in China, Beijing stated it "will not continue to process cases at any

stage" other than those cases covered by an exception clause, and the embassy is seeking clarification in writing from China's Ministry of Civil Affairs, a U.S. State Department statement said.

"We understand there are hundreds of families still pending completion of their adoption, and we sympathize with their situation," the statement said.

At a daily briefing on Thursday, Mao Ning, a spokeswoman for the Chinese foreign ministry, said that China is no longer allowing foreign adoptions of the country's children, with the only exception for blood relatives to adopt a child or a stepchild.

She didn't explain the deci-

sion other than to say that it was in line with the spirit of relevant international conventions.

Many foreigners have adopted children from China over the decades, visiting the country to pick them up and then bringing them to a new home overseas.

Over the years, U.S. families have adopted 82,674 children from China, the most from any foreign country.

China suspended international adoptions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The government later resumed adoptions for children who had received travel authorization before the suspension in 2020, the U.S. State Department said in its latest annual report on adoptions.

A U.S. consulate issued 16 visas for adoptions from China in the 12 months from October 2022 through September 2023, the first in more than two years, the State Department report said. It wasn't clear if any more visas had been issued since then.

In January, Denmark's only overseas adoption agency said it was winding down operations after concerns were raised about fabricated documents and procedures, and Norway's top regulatory body recommended stopping overseas adoptions for two years pending an investigation into several cases.

Beijing's announcement also has followed falling birth rates in the country. □



Spanish couples take their newly adopted Chinese children for a walk in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, March 7, 2007.

Associated Press

Why Oceanfront Condo Prices in Aruba Are Set to Skyrocket



Imagine waking up every morning to the sound of gentle waves and stepping onto white sandy beaches under the Caribbean sun. This dream is not just a reality for those lucky enough to own an oceanfront condo in Aruba—it's also an investment opportunity that's about to become even more lucrative.

The Caribbean has long been a haven for those seeking an escape from the cold, offering an unbeatable mix of stunning landscapes, warm weather, and a relaxed lifestyle. From December to April, the region bursts with life as snowbirds flock to its shores, transforming the Caribbean into a vibrant, sun-soaked paradise. During these months, average temperatures range from 76°F in the Bahamas to a perfect 83°F in Aruba, making it a top destination for winter getaways. But what's really driving the market now is the shift to hybrid working, which allows people to extend their stays from a few weeks to several months. This trend is redefining how and where people choose to live, and the Caribbean—Aruba in particular—is reaping the benefits. Since 2019, the prime residential property market across the Caribbean has seen steady growth, even in the face of a global pandemic. Buyers are increasingly seeking out second homes or retirement spots, willing to pay top dollar for a slice of paradise. Prices for luxury properties range dramatically—from \$650 per square foot for off-beach villas in Antigua to a staggering \$2,780 per square foot for beachfront villas in the Cayman Islands.

So, why is Aruba the place to watch? Beyond its world-renowned beaches, safe environment, and solid infrastructure, several factors suggest that prices for oceanfront condos and homes are set to climb even higher.

Limited Supply, Surging Demand

The Aruban government has placed a moratorium on new condo developments, restricting the supply of new properties at a time when demand is skyrocketing. Tourist numbers are on the rise, expected to jump from just over 1 million in 2022 to more than 1.4 million by 2024. Many of these visitors are not just tourists—they're potential buyers. With little oceanfront land left to develop, the laws of supply and demand suggest that prices will only continue to rise. North American buyers, in particular, are snapping up beachfront properties, driving prices higher as available inventory dwindles.

Aruba's Prices Are a Bargain—For Now

Compared to other top-tier beach destinations, Aruba's luxury condos are currently a steal:

- The Bahamas: \$735-\$2,000/sq-ft
- Antigua & Barbuda: \$665-\$1,250/sq-ft
- Barbados: \$750-\$1,400/sq-ft
- Cayman Islands: \$1,140-\$2,780/sq-ft
- Turks & Caicos: \$1,100-\$1,500/sq-ft

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But this won't last. As the market tightens and demand continues to surge, Aruba's prices are expected to rise sharply, bringing them more in line with other premium Caribbean islands. Expect to see more multi-million dollar homes hit the market as the island becomes an increasingly attractive option for affluent buyers.

Appealing to High-Income Visitors

Aruba is gearing up to welcome more affluent visitors, with the opening of a new St. Regis hotel in late 2024 and a refurbishment of the Hyatt under new ownership. These developments signal a shift towards a higher-end market, much like what's been seen in the Turks & Caicos and the Cayman Islands. While Aruba's diverse appeal will remain, the influx of wealthier tourists is likely to boost demand for luxury real estate, driving prices even higher.

Robust Rental Returns

For many buyers, owning a piece of

the Caribbean isn't just about having a dream vacation home—it's also a savvy investment. The rental market in Aruba remains strong, especially as tourism continues to bounce back post-pandemic. With the rise of longer stays due to remote working, rental returns are likely to grow, making ownership even more attractive. Whether you're looking to rent out your property during the high season or enjoy it yourself, the potential for strong rental income is yet another reason why investing in Aruba's oceanfront condos makes sense.

Conclusion: The Time to Invest Is Now

Aruba's prime residential market is on the cusp of significant growth. The island's appeal—a combination of natural beauty, safety, strong infrastructure, and an inviting climate—combined with limited supply and increasing demand, is setting the stage for a surge in oceanfront condo prices. With prices still low compared to other Caribbean hotspots, now is the time to invest. Don't wait too long—Aruba's oceanfront condos are poised to become some of the most coveted real estate in the Caribbean. □



Casa del Mar Beach Resort – Your own piece of Aruba, a hidden gem



History

If you have been a regular visitor to Aruba since the 1970's, you probably recall the Sun Development group, who at that time were ahead of the times in introducing timeshare to Aruba and using the latest construction techniques around the island.

As pioneers in Aruba's tourism industry, Sun Development opened the doors of Casa del Mar Beach Resort Phase I in October 1986. The two-bedroom Presidential suites were introduced and well received. As Aruba's tourism began to take off, Sun Development led the way. With Phase I sold out and demand for more inventory increasing almost daily, the second phase of Casa del Mar Beach Resort was announced in July 1987 and opened in January 1989, with many existing members buying or upgrading suites in Phase II.

In 1989, a separate building, the Ambassador Building, was constructed across the street, adding 40 additional one-bedroom suites to Casa del Mar Beach Resort. To-

day, the resort consists of 147 well-appointed suites in total.

The resort

Casa del Mar Beach Resort is where a world-famous white sandy beach meets the clear blue Caribbean waters. Whether you are looking for a romantic getaway or a fun-filled family vacation with water sports and activities, Casa del Mar Beach Resort has it all. Located on Eagle Beach, ranked among the top 10 beaches in the world, this resort offers a truly unforgettable experience. Their recently renovated suites provide you with a private and luxurious retreat, allowing you to enjoy "Your own piece of Aruba."

The resort offers a variety of on-property amenities and concessionaires, including Matthews Beach Side Restaurant, Santos Coffee with Soul, Clinical Massage Spa, Thrifty Car Rental, Island Trendz, and a recently renovated pickleball and tennis court. Members and guests can enjoy two pool areas, a mini-market, and Pelican Adventures with in-house concierge services, as well as many activities for all ages.

The resort is also surrounded by multiple fine dining restaurants, all within walking distance. The suites are spacious and luxurious, accommodating families of

four to six people, depending on the suite type. These suites are available to both transient guests and through lifelong ownership via timeshare purchase.

What to expect

Experience all that Casa del Mar Beach Resort has to offer by booking your next stay with them. You will enjoy a warm and welcoming Caribbean ambience, with a staff always ready to assist with anything you need. Many still come to the island with their families or have handed their timeshare down to the next generation, who grew up loving Aruba and continue to bring their own kids here to experience the resort and people of this beautiful island.

Buying "Your own piece of Aruba"

Casa del Mar Beach Resort offers an impressive array of accommodations, from one-bedroom suites

to renovated two-bedroom suites with breathtaking oceanfront, serene garden-side, and vibrant pool views. Members and guests enjoy the flexibility of exchanging their suite for points to use at various locations worldwide, year-round access to the stunning property, and numerous additional benefits.

Casa del Mar Beach Resort offers some of the lowest maintenance fees on the island and provides the opportunity to purchase a preferred week and suite type. This purchase guarantees lifelong ownership that can be passed down to future generations.

Schedule a brief tour without any further obligation with their Sales Agent during your current vacation and receive a free day pass in return with a welcome drink from Matthews Beach Side Restaurant while overlooking the beach.

For more information, visit their website at www.casadelmar-aruba.com, where you can find everything you need to explore "Your own piece of Aruba." □



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as

names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Joe and Anne from Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Joe wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me means my beautiful bride's happy place!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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A quick snack for the road: Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:4 cups of wheat flour
1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp sugar
0.5 cup of melted butter
1 cup water
1 egg**Directions:**

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the

bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around 1/4 inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to



use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. □



(Oranjestad)—Today we celebrate Valentine's Day, and what can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset. Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest point easily acces-

sible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either

Best spots to view the sunset

Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island starting from behind Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort up to the Amsterdam Manor roundabout. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!*

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another

great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple hue.

Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in

and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back.

Editor's note: This spot may be my personal favorite, if you couldn't already tell... □

Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger

Many years ago, Cha* Tiger did not live in the mondi*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for

him to say such things. "You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense." "I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger

ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth



what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch. Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife. □

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi



The Aruban Cunukero

From past to present

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.



Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

1. The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;
2. Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
3. Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
4. Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasants", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with

other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their history may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given to opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to be-

come real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.

These Aruban farmers were also limited to the amount of cattle they could keep. Most kept goats as cattle, as only those who were affiliated with the WIC could keep (more) sheep. Of the 76 goat herders on the island, about 45 of them had less than 30 goats, and only 7 of them had more than 60 goats.

It wasn't until the WIC was defunct in late 18th cen-

tury that these farmers were able to obtain more freedom as cunukeros. After 1824, the government gave these farmers official permission to keep livestock, and the obligations once placed on them were officially discarded.

Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that

many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events.

Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henry E. red. □

CROSSWORD

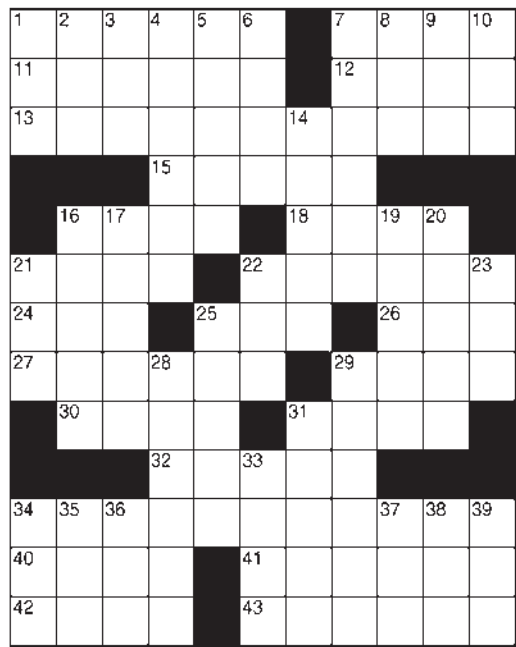
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Do over

- 1 Human ancestor
7 Latte topper
11 Gomez of "Only Murders in the Building"
12 Bumpkin
13 Workplace motto
15 Inventor Nikola
16 Olympus leader
18 Vaccine type
21 Easy win
22 Got a C, say
24 Company abbr.
25 Yoga need
26 Sedan or SUV
27 Cheated at hide-and-seek
29 Office leader
30 Glade grazer
31 Smoker's discard
32 Cap feature
34 Sturdily made
40 Cuzco native
41 Flowering shrub
42 South African farmer
- DOWN**
1 Donkey
2 Stew sphere
3 North Pole worker
4 Get together
5 Pays to play
6 Opposing votes
7 Some brothers
8 Owned by us
9 Crunch targets
10 Ran into
14 Parade sight
16 Like urban areas
17 Game show host

S O F A S G A S P S
A L I E N E X P E L
T E R R A N E A T O
O G R E N E W
C L A S S I S M
H A R M D I E S E L
A T E I T S T O V E
D E A T H S A M E N
H E E D L E S S
S A P C A R L
P L A Z A A I S L E
U T T E R I C I E R
D O S E S N A D E R

Yesterday's answer



2-6

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-6 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

Y B B G A W T I X P R B P Z U P A K
D W U P I J D S B K T M K S C M B
— P M J K S P J W U K U C Z Z X P Z Z
H B S C M J A W T . — U P Z D
U S C D L P M

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LET YOURSELF BE DRAWN BY THE STRONGER PULL OF THAT WHICH YOU TRULY LOVE. — RUMI

Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

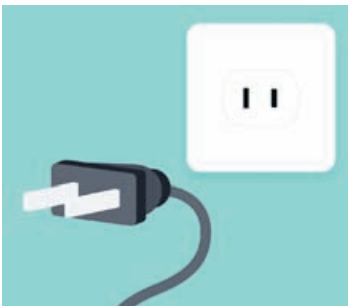
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	03	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	10	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL MAGIC	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Teen vaping hits 10-year low in the U.S.

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**

AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer adolescents are vaping this year than at any point in the last decade, government officials reported Thursday, pointing to a shrinking number of high school students who are using Elf Bar and other fruity, unauthorized e-cigarettes.

The latest survey numbers show the teen vaping rate fell to under 6% this year, down from 7.7% in 2023. More than 1.6 million students reported vaping in the previous month about one-third the number in 2019, when underage vaping peaked with the use of discrete, high-nicotine e-cigarettes like Juul.

This year's decline was mainly driven by a half-million fewer high school students who reported using e-cigarettes in the past month, officials said. Vaping was unchanged among middle schoolers, but remains less common in that group, at 3.5% of students.

"This is a monumental public health win," FDA's tobacco director Brian King told reporters. "But we can't rest on our laurels. There's clearly more work to do to further reduce youth use."

King and other officials noted that the drop in vaping didn't coincide with a rise in other tobacco industry products, such as nicotine pouches.

Sales of small, flavored pouches like Zyn have surged among adults. The subject of viral videos on social media platforms, the pouches come in flavors like mint and cinnamon and slowly release nicotine when placed along the gumline. This year's U.S. survey shows 1.8% of teens are using them, largely unchanged from last year.

"Our guard is up," King said. "We're aware of the reported growing sales trends and we're closely monitoring the evolving tobacco product landscape."



Elf Bar and Esco Bar flavored disposable vaping devices are displayed in Washington on Monday, June 26, 2023.

Associated Press

The federal survey involved more than 29,000 students in grades 6 through 12 who filled out an online questionnaire in the spring. Health officials consider the survey to be their best measure of youth tobacco and nicotine trends. Thursday's update focused on vaping products and nicotine pouches, but the full publication will eventually include rates of cigarette and cigar smoking, which have also hit historic lows in recent years.

Officials from the FDA and Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention attributed the big drop in vaping to recent age restrictions and more aggressive enforcement against retailers and manufacturers, including Chinese vaping companies who have sold their e-cigarettes illegally in the U.S. for years.

Use of the most popular e-cigarette among teens, Elf Bar, fell 36% in the wake of FDA warning letters to stores and distributors selling the brightly colored vapes, which come in flavors like watermelon ice and peach mango. The

brand is part of a wave of cheap, disposable e-cigarettes from China that have taken over a large portion of the U.S. vaping market.



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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

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Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

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San Nicolas	584 5000
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Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
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Movie Review: Netflix's tight, taut and tension-filled 'Rebel Ridge' is a first-rate drama

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

"Rebel Ridge" opens with a shot of a lanky, muscular stranger riding into a small, corrupt Southern town a scene we've all seen plenty of times. Except this stranger isn't in a truck or on a horse. He's on a bicycle.

It's one of many ways that writer-director Jeremy Saulnier both honors and has fun with movie conventions on his way to making clearly one of the best things on Netflix.

The tight, taut and tension-filled "Rebel Ridge" is the story of a former Marine who arrives in Shelby Springs, Louisiana, to post his cousin's bond and gets sucked into taking on its shady law enforcement department.

The last time a relative came to help his cousin from the clutches of less-than-ideal small town Southern legal system it was a comedy with Joe Pesci and a hero named Vinny. If you ever needed a hint that this isn't that movie, the opening sequence is scored to Iron Maiden.

The movie stars Aaron Pierre as our former Marine, Terry Richmond, a man



This image released by Netflix shows Don Johnson as Chief Sandy Burne, left, and Aaron Pierre as Terry Richmond in a scene from "Rebel Ridge."

with mad martial arts and survival skills (he catches fish with his bare hands), and, on the opposite side, Don Johnson as the courtly but deadly chief of police, as venal as Richmond is noble. Both seem absolutely to adore their gun-slinging, testosterone-filled roles.

Saulnier who dealt with frontier justice and lawlessness in his previous "Blue

Ruin" and "Green Room" has given this action-thriller loads of social context: racism, opioid addiction, the cash bail system, small-town funding and militarized cops.

Like its leading man, "Rebel Ridge" is a lean, muscular movie with few over-the-top special effects, save for Pierre's spectacular eyes. It's a triumph of small-

budget, naturalistic filmmaking, where cars on a gravel road kick up choking clouds of dust and arm bones crack when pressure is applied.

The script is spare allowing for some homespun poetry like "You know the thing about a pissing contest? Everybody gets piss on their boots" and without an ounce of fat. So if

a bottle of coconut water is brought up in one scene, it's going to be used in another. There are interesting camera angles, like the backseat of a speeding car or a tense cell phone call inside an old-fashioned phone booth.

There's also great use of dramatic underscoring by Brooke and Will Blair, who build discordant waves that grow slack, only to reappear like a shark. The score including "Wayfaring Stranger" by Neko Case or "Right Brigade" by Bad Brains are heard only on car radios or headphones or playing in restaurants. Distant thunder sounds often.

Our ex-Marine described by one officer as "unarmed but considered dangerous" forges an unlikely ally in a court clerk, played winningly by AnnaSophia Robb, and there's a plumb role for James Cromwell, too. "Rebel Ridge" has whiffs of all kinds of other movies, from "First Blood" to spaghetti Westerns, while the script even humanizes the bad guys "Just because you was right doesn't make us wrong," the chief says to our hero. □

Associated Press

Fictional sleuth Sam Spade will be back on the job in upcoming novel by Max Allan Collins

By **HILLEL ITALIE**

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The story of one of the great fictional sleuths, Dashiell Hammett's

Sam Spade, will be continued by prize-winning crime writer Max Allan Collins.

The publisher Hard Case Crime announced Thurs-

day that Collins' "The Return of the Maltese Falcon" will be released in January 2026, when the Hammett classic featuring Spade, "The Maltese Falcon," enters the public domain. "The Maltese Falcon," published in 1930 and known to movie fans for the 1941 adaptation starring Humphrey Bogart, is widely regarded as a model for the hard-boiled detective novel.

"It has been an inspiration to authors and filmmakers, actors and illustrators and musicians — and to me, for the entire 50-plus years I've been a novelist," Collins said in a statement. "Not that writing about the world Hammett created, and those immortal, sometimes immoral characters isn't

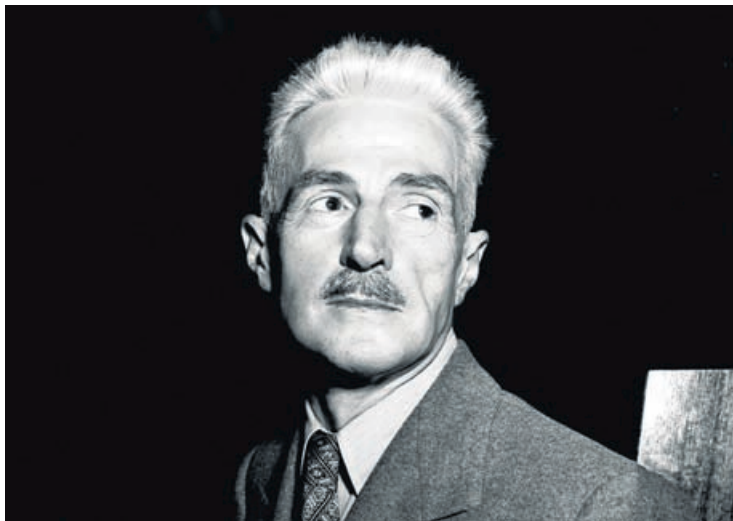
challenging. Hammett's best mystery also happens to be one of the greatest American novels, period." When copyright protection ends for a book, anyone is free to use the characters and story line. After F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" entered the public domain, in 2021, new creations included a Tony-winning musical of the same name and a prequel novel, "Nick," by Michael Farris Smith.

According to Hard Case Crime, Collins' new book will bring back Spade and Joel Cairo among other Hammett characters, and "a mysterious new femme fatale." Collins, whose "Road to Perdition" was adapted into a film starring

Tom Hanks and Paul Newman, has a long history of working with famous literary detectives. He took over the Dick Tracy comic strip in the late 1970s after creator Chester Gould retired, and he was later authorized to continue Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer series.

"I'm something of an old hand at walking in the shoes of the giants who came before, though I never claim to filling them," Collins told The Associated Press.

Various authorized Spade projects have been released, including a 2009 prequel, Joe Gores' "Spade & Archer," a novel about Spade and his professional partner, Miles Archer. □



Novelist Dashiell Hammett, author of "The Maltese Falcon" appears in New York on Nov. 7, 1947.

Associated Press



Minnesota Twins' Edouard Julien (47) celebrates his three-run home run off Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Taj Bradley with third base coach Tommy Watkins during the second inning of a baseball game Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

Edouard Julien hits 3-run homer, Twins beat Rays 4-3 after 13-minute delay

By **DICK SCANLON**
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) —

Edouard Julien hit a three-run homer, and the Minnesota Twins beat the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 Thursday in a game with a 13-minute interruption largely caused by a video review.

With Tampa Bay trailing 4-2 in the seventh inning and Jonny DeLuca on third, Yandy Díaz sliced a drive toward the right-field corner, Matt Wallner gloved the ball on two hops as DeLuca scored, and Wallner's momentum carried him over the low wall and into a camera well.

Umpires held a crew chief review that took about nine minutes and determined Díaz should be placed on second base.

"If the guy has possession of the ball going into the stands, it's one base. If he doesn't have possession of it, it can be two bases," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "So he had possession of it. ... I'm confident that they got the call right."

Twins manager Rocco Baldelli then brought in reliever Griffin Jax to replace Pablo López (14-8). Jax retired Brandon Lowe on a groundout.

"It was the difference between a man being on second and third. When you're on third you can score on a wild pitch, you can find

a way to score," said Díaz, who had two of the Rays' eight hits.

López gave up three runs and seven hits, struck out nine and walked one. His scoreless streak reached 23 1/3 innings before Junior Caminero's two-run single in the third.

"I didn't know what was going on," López said of the long video review. "The Jumbotron said the play is under review, and the umpire said it was about the rules of the ballpark and they were trying to get everything right. I wasn't happy that it took that long and may have cost me (the completion of the inning)." Jhoan Durán struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 22nd save in 24 chances as the Twins gained a four-game split.

Minnesota (76-64) moved a half-game ahead of idle Kansas City (76-65) for the AL's second wild card.

Eight of the last nine games between the teams have been decided by one run. Julien homered in the second inning on a first-pitch splitter from Taj Bradley (6-10) and Wallner in the third on a 2-0 fastball.

Bradley allowed six hits in seven innings, struck out 10 and walked one. He is 0-6 in seven starts since winning at Toronto on July 25.

He gave up one hit in 4 2/3

innings after the homers. His seven innings matched a career high.

"You kind of get angry after something like that," he said. "I just concentrated on not letting those runs beat me. I feel like that's what's been happening; I'd come out early because of the big inning. I was just trying to eliminate that."

Before the game, the Rays recalled infielder Austin Shenton from Durham, selected the contract of left-hander Mason Montgomery from the Triple-A affiliate, optioned left-hander Tyler Alexander to the Bulls and designated catcher Alex Jackson for assignment.

Montgomery made his major league debut with a hitless eighth inning that included a walk.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Twins: OF Max Kepler (left patellar tendinitis) was placed on the 10-day injured list and OF DaShawn Keirsey Jr.'s contract was selected from Triple-A St. Paul, Keirsey made his major league debut in the eighth inning in center field. ... OF Byron Buxton's recovery has been hampered by continued discomfort in his right hip, according to manager Rocco Baldelli reported. Buxton played briefly before being ejected from his first rehab game Wednesday night. □

Magic Johnson buys a stake in the NWSL's Washington Spirit



Magic Johnson waves to people before an NBA basketball game between the New York Knicks and the Los Angeles Lakers Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Magic Johnson has bought an ownership stake in the National Women's Soccer League's Washington Spirit, the basketball great-turned entrepreneur's latest addition to his professional sports team portfolio.

The team announced Thursday that Johnson has joined the investor group led by owner Michele Kang. "I'm excited to join the Washington Spirit's investor group at such a pivotal time in the club's history," Johnson said in a statement. "Partnering with a visionary like Michele Kang and her team to advance the growth of the Washington Spirit and the NWSL is an incredible opportunity. I'm excited to join the team and play my part to help elevate this organization." Johnson, whose given name is Earvin, most recently became part of the ownership group that bought the NFL's Washington Commanders last year and also has shares in Major League Baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers, WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks and Major League Soccer's Los Angeles FC.

"From the basketball court to the boardroom, Earvin knows how to win, and we are delighted to count on his expertise as part of our fantastic investor group," said Kang, who has owned the team since 2022. "His commitment not only reflects the strength of our club, players, fans and brand, but also sends a powerful message about the growth and impact of women's sports globally. Together, we look forward to taking the Washington Spirit to new heights and inspiring the next generation of young women and girls worldwide."

Johnson will be introduced at a school event Friday and is expected to be at the Spirit's next home game Saturday at Audi Field against Portland Thorns FC.

In on-field news, the team said U.S. Olympic gold medal-winning midfielder Croix Bethune is out for the season with a knee injury. The Spirit said Bethune, who threw out the first pitch at the Nationals game on Aug. 28, tore the meniscus in one of her knees away from training.

The Washington Post reported Bethune was injured from throwing out the first pitch. □



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The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

Alex Morgan retires from professional soccer and is expecting her second child

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Soccer Writer

With two Women's World Cup titles and an Olympic gold medal, Alex Morgan is retiring from professional soccer as one of the United States national team's most prolific scorers and as someone who helped lead the fight for equal pay.

The 35-year-old Morgan, who said she is pregnant with her second child, made the announcement on Thursday in a social media post.

At times during the heartfelt message, Morgan was near tears.

"This decision wasn't easy, but at the beginning of 2024 I felt in my heart and soul that this was the last season that I would play soccer," she said. "Soccer has been a part of me for 30 years, and it was one of the first things that I ever loved."

I gave everything to this sport and what I got in return was more than I could have ever dreamed of."

Morgan will play her final match with her club team, the San Diego Wave of the National Women's Soccer

League, on Sunday at Snapdragon Stadium. Over the course of a 15-year career with the United

States national team, Morgan made an impact on and off the field, fighting for equal pay and speaking out about social justice issues.

In addition to World Cup titles in 2015 and 2019, Morgan also won a gold medal with the United States at the 2012 London Olympics and a bronze at the Tokyo Games in 2021. She first joined the national team in 2009.

Morgan played in 224 matches for the national team, ninth-all time, with 123 goals (fifth all-time) and 53 assists (ninth all-time). She was named the U.S. Soccer Player of the Year in 2012 and 2018.

Her final game with the United States came on June 4, 2024, against South Korea. She was not on the roster of players that won the gold medal at the Paris Olympics.□



Alex Morgan, a member of the United States women's national soccer team, speaks to reporters during a news conference in New York, Friday, May 24, 2019.

Associated Press